

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

ORDER NO. 01-139

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, OWNER  
RIVERSIDE COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT, OPERATOR  
DESERT CENTER SANITARY LANDFILL  
CLASS III LANDFILL  
North of Desert Center - Riverside County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, finds that:

1. Riverside County Waste Management Department (hereinafter referred to as the discharger) 1995 Market Street, Riverside, CA 92501-1719 operates the Desert Center Sanitary Landfill (hereinafter referred to as the Landfill).
2. The Landfill is on land owned by the United States Department of the Interior, and administered by the Bureau of Land Management (hereinafter also referred to as the discharger) 690 W. Garnet Avenue, P.O. Box 581260, North Palm Springs, CA 92258-1260.
3. Definitions of terms used in this Board Order:
  - a. Waste Management Facility (WMF) –The entire parcel of property where waste discharge operations are conducted.
  - b. Waste Management Unit (WMU) - An area of land, or a portion of the Waste Management Facility, at which waste is discharged. The term includes containment features and ancillary features for precipitation and drainage control and monitoring.
  - c. Landfill – A Waste Management Unit where waste is discharged to land. It does not include surface impoundments, waste piles, or land or soil treatment.
  - d. Discharger – Discharger means any person who discharges waste that could affect the quality of the waters of the State, and includes any person who owns a Waste Management Unit or who is responsible for the operation of a Waste Management Unit.
4. The Landfill is located in Southern California four (4) miles north of Desert Center and ¼ mile west of Kaiser Road as shown on Attachments A and B. It lies within the E ½ of the SE ¼ of Section 33 and the W ½ of the SW ¼ of Section 34, T4S, R15E, SBB&M as shown on Attachment C.
5. The Landfill is situated on a 160-acre parcel of land. Landfilling occurs on seven (7) acres.
6. The Landfill is situated along the northwestern edge of Chuckwalla Valley with the Eagle Mountains to the north. Elevation of the site is approximately 700 feet above sea level with a bedrock outcrop in the center of the site rising to over 820 feet above sea level. Landfilling occurs adjacent to a northwest-facing bedrock outcrop.

7. Bedrock in the immediate vicinity of the Desert Center Landfill is predominantly highly fractured Mesozoic granitics. A small outcrop of Tertiary volcanics is directly southwest of the Landfill area lying on top of the granitics. A possibly concealed east-west trending fault has been mapped approximately 1/4 mile north of the site.
8. The discharger reports that according to Riverside County's Environmental Hazards and Resources Element, the area of the Landfill is outside the Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone and other known County Fault Hazard Zones.
9. The Landfill is generally sloped to the northeast and relatively flat except for a prominent rocky hill located near the center. Dune sand and alluvium lie on top of the bedrock. The alluvial deposits have infiltration rates of 0.6 inches to greater than 20 inches per hour.
10. The Landfill started accepting waste in 1972. In 1975, the Landfill became subject to Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) prescribed in Board Order No. 75-065. The WDRs were updated and superseded by Board Order No. 83-072. On September 15, 1993, the WDRs were amended when Board Order No. 93-071, amending all Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Board Orders to comply with Federal regulations, was adopted by the Regional Board.
11. On May 15, 1998, the discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD). The ROWD contained information to update the WDRs. The WDRs were updated in Board Order No. 98-002 and Board Order No. 83-072 was rescinded on September 17, 1998.
12. Board Order 98-002 complied with laws and regulations as set forth in the California Water Code and the combined SWRCB/CIWMB Regulations, Division 2, Title 27 (hereinafter referred to as Title 27).
13. On May 3, 2001, the discharger submitted a request to modify the monitoring parameters and monitoring frequencies in Board Order No. 98-002.
14. This Board Order updates Board Order No. 98-002 to reflect the recent water quality related concerns and changes in ground water monitoring and reporting requirements.
15. The Landfill has received an average of 12 tons-per-day (tpd) of Class III non-hazardous Municipal Solid Waste from the communities of Eagle Mountain, Desert Center, and Lake Tamarisk during the one (1) day per week of operation in the year 2000. As of July 1, 2001, the site will be open two (2) times per year. The wastes received at the Landfill are:
  - a. Residential
  - b. Mixed Municipal
  - c. Agricultural
  - d. Construction/demolition
  - e. Tires
  - f. Dead animals
16. The total capacity of the Landfill, including refuse and cover material, is 409,612 cubic yards (yd<sup>3</sup>). As of December 31, 2000, the net remaining disposal capacity of the Landfill is approximately 37,384 yd<sup>3</sup> (18,692 tons) of refuse.
17. The Landfill is not lined and does not have a leachate collection and removal system.

18. For hazardous materials, random load-checking is performed during operating periods. Hazardous materials found are transported to the Central Accumulation Storage Facility for temporary storage. Hazardous waste stored will be transported to an appropriate site within 90 days in accordance with State and Federal regulations.
19. The area fill method is used for waste disposal at the Landfill. Waste is compacted and covered daily.
20. The annual average precipitation and evaporation rates in the area are 2.5 inches and 85 inches, respectively.
21. The 100-year, 24-hour precipitation event for the Landfill is three (3) inches.
22. The site is not within the 100-year floodplain.
23. The current land use within a one-mile radius of the site is zoned W-2 (controlled development) and N-A (Natural Assets) as shown on Attachment C.
24. The discharger submitted a final Solid Waste Assessment Test (SWAT) report on December 13, 1990. During the SWAT investigation, the discharger installed three ground water monitoring wells, along with three vadose zone soil borings. Monitoring well EMW-1 is constructed upgradient, and monitoring wells EMW-2 and EMW-3 are constructed downgradient of the Landfill as shown on Attachment D.
25. The SWAT report indicated no release of pollutants from the Landfill to the ground water.
26. As part of the Air SWAT, three (3) perimeter gas probes were installed at the Landfill to monitor any gas release from the Landfill to the surrounding area. Attachment E shows the location of these probes.
27. The discharger reports that the depth-to-ground water is about 230 to 260 feet. The ground water is under confined conditions within a fractured zone in the granitics.
28. Ground water flow beneath the Landfill is toward the northeast at approximately 0.4 percent gradient as shown on Attachment D.
29. On October 22, 2000, the Regional Board received an Evidence of a Release Notification from the Riverside County Waste Management Department, indicating the release of the following volatile organic constituents (VOCs) from the Landfill:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Well No.</u>	<u>Detected Concentration <math>\mu\text{g/L}</math></u>
Tetrachloroethene	EMW-1	0.28
	EMW-2	0.38
	EMW-3	0.70
Trichloroethene	EMW-3	0.43
Trichlorofluoromethane	EMW-2	0.23
	EMW-3	1.5

The Notification also stated that discrete re-testing would be performed within 30 days (by October 27, 2000) in accordance with Section (E)(2)(b) of the Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 98-002.

30. On November 17, 2000, the Regional Board received analytical results of discrete re-testing of ground water samples taken from the Landfill on October 24, 2000. The samples indicated the presence of the following constituents in the ground water.

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Well No.</u>	<u>Detected Concentration <math>\mu\text{g/L}</math></u>
Tetrachloroethene	EMW-1	0.26
	EMW-2	0.34
	EMW-3	0.6
Trichloroethene	EMW-3	0.43
Trichlorofluoromethane	EMW-3	0.87

31. On December 15, 2000, the Regional Board received analytical results from a Constituents of Concern (COC) scan from the discharger. The following constituents were detected in ground water:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Well No.</u>	<u>Detected Concentration <math>\mu\text{g/L}</math></u>
Tetrachloroethene	EMW-2	0.5
	EMW-3	0.6
Trichloroethene	EMW-2	0.28
	EMW-3	0.50
Trichlorofluoromethane	EMW-2	0.24
	EMW-3	0.96

32. Pursuant to Sections 13304(a) and 13267 of the California Water Code, the Regional Board's Executive Officer issued Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 01-104 on June 6, 2001.
33. The discharger submitted a Preliminary Closure and Post Closure Maintenance Plan (PCPCMP) on December 19, 1995. The PCPCMP was approved by Regional Board staff on January 12, 1996. A revised PCPCMP was submitted by the discharger on September 19, 2001.
34. The Landfill is located in the Chuckwalla Ground Water Basin that coincides with the physiographic boundaries of the Chuckwalla Valley.
35. The Landfill is located in the Palen Hydrologic Subunit.
36. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region of California (Basin Plan) was adopted on November 17, 1993 and designates the beneficial uses of ground and surface waters in this Region.

37. The beneficial uses of ground waters in the Palen Hydrologic Subunit are:
- a. Municipal supply (MUN)
  - b. Industrial supply (IND)
  - c. Agricultural (AGR)
38. Surface water from three (3) ephemeral drainage channels that pass across the site from southwest to the northeast are diverted by berms constructed along the perimeter of the site.
39. The Regional Board finds that the seven (7) acre Landfill project is in compliance with the provisions of Title 27, as well as 40 CFR Parts 257 and 258, the Federal RCRA Subtitle "D" (Subtitle D) regulations promulgated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U. S. EPA) on October 9, 1991, effective October 9, 1993.
40. In accordance with Section 15301, Chapter 3, Division 6, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, the issuance of these Waste Discharge Requirements, which govern the operation of an existing facility involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et. seq.).
41. Federal regulations for storm water discharges were promulgated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on November 16, 1990 (40 CFR Parts 122, 123, and 124). The regulations require that specific categories of facilities which discharge storm water associated with industrial activity, obtain a NPDES Permit and implement Best Conventional Pollutant Technology (BCTP) to reduce or eliminate industrial storm water pollution.
42. The State Water Resources Control Board adopted Order No. 97-03-DWQ (General Permit No. CAS0000001), specifying Waste Discharge Requirements for discharges of storm water associated with industrial activities, excluding construction activities, and requiring submittal of a Notice of Intent by industries to be covered under the Permit.
43. The discharger has submitted to this Regional Board and to the California Integrated Waste Management Board, evidence of Financial Assurance for Closure and Post Closure, pursuant to Section 22207 and 22212 of Title 27.
44. The Board has notified the discharger and all known interested agencies and persons of its intent to update Waste Discharge Requirements for this discharge and has provided them with an opportunity for a public meeting and an opportunity to submit comments.
45. The Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to this discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that Board Order No. 98-002 is rescinded, and in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder, the discharger shall comply with the following:

A. Specifications

1. The treatment or disposal of wastes at this facility shall not cause pollution or nuisance as defined in Section 13050 of Division 7 of the California Water Code.

2. Waste materials shall be confined to the existing footprint of the waste management facility as depicted in the attached site maps.
3. Waste material shall not be discharged on any ground surface which is less than five (5) feet above the highest anticipated ground water level.
4. The discharge shall not cause degradation of any water supply.
5. Surface drainage from tributary areas, and internal site drainage from surface or subsurface sources, shall not contact or percolate through the wastes discharged at this site.
6. The exterior surfaces of the disposal area, including the intermediate and final landfill covers, shall be graded and maintained to promote lateral runoff of precipitation and to prevent ponding.
7. The discharger shall use the constituents listed in Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 01-139 and revisions thereto, as "Monitoring Parameters". These Monitoring Parameters are subject to the most appropriate statistical or non-statistical tests under Monitoring and Reporting No. 01-139, Part III, and any revised Monitoring and Reporting Program approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
8. The discharger shall implement the attached Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 01-139 and revisions thereto in order to detect, at the earliest opportunity, any unauthorized discharge of waste constituents from the Landfill, or any unreasonable impairment of beneficial uses associated with (caused by) discharges of waste to the Landfill.
9. The discharger shall not cause the concentration of any Constituent of Concern or Monitoring Parameters to exceed its respective background value in any monitored medium at any Monitoring Point assigned to Detection Monitoring pursuant to Parts II B.4 of the attached Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 01-139 and revisions thereto.
10. The discharger shall follow the Water Quality Protection Standards (WQPS) for Detection Monitoring established by the Regional Board in this Board Order pursuant to Title 27, Section 20390. The following are five parts of WQPS as established by the Regional Board (the terms of art used in this Board Order regarding monitoring are defined in Part I of the attached Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 01-139 and revisions thereto, which is hereby incorporated by reference):
  - a. The discharger shall test for the Monitoring Parameters and the Constituent of Concern (COC) listed in Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 01-139, and revisions thereto.
  - b. Concentration Limit - The Concentration Limits for each Monitoring Parameter and Constituents of Concern for each Monitoring Point (as stated in Detection Monitoring Program Part II), shall be its background value as obtained during that reporting period.
  - c. Monitoring Points and background Monitoring Points for Detection Monitoring shall be those listed in Part II.B of the attached Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 01-139, and any revised Monitoring and Reporting Program approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer. Monitoring and background Monitoring Points are also shown on Attachment D.
  - d. The points of compliance are shown on Attachment D and extend through the zone of saturation.

- e. Compliance Period – The estimated duration of the Compliance Period for this Landfill is six (6) years. Each time the Standard is not met (i.e., releases discovered), the Landfill begins a Compliance Period on the date the Regional Board directs the dischargers to begin an Evaluation Monitoring Program. If the dischargers' Corrective Action Program (CAP) has not achieved compliance with the standard by the scheduled end of the Compliance Period, the Compliance Period is automatically extended until the Landfill has been in continuous compliance for at least three (3) consecutive years.
- 11. The discharger shall install at a minimum, two (2) permanent monuments to serve as reference points for monitoring refuse settlement at the Landfill. Also the entire permitted site shall be aerially photographed at the end of the closure activities and every five (5) years throughout the post closure maintenance period.
  - 12. The discharger shall remove and relocate any wastes that are discharged at this site in violation of these requirements.
  - 13. Water used for site maintenance shall be limited to amounts necessary for dust control.
  - 14. The discharger shall maintain a hazardous waste load-checking program at the Landfill. The discharger shall report the result of the load-checking program in accordance with Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 01-139 and revisions thereto.
  - 15. The Landfill shall be designed to prevent any washout or erosion of wastes or covering material, and from any inundation which could occur as a result of floods having a predicted frequency of once in 100 years.
  - 16. The discharge shall not cause the release of pollutants, or waste constituents in a manner which could cause a condition of contamination, or pollution to occur, as directed by the most appropriate statistical (or non-statistical) data analysis method and retest method listed in Part III of the attached Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 01-139 and revisions thereto.

B. Prohibitions

- 1. The discharge or deposit of hazardous waste as defined in Title 27 at this site is prohibited.
- 2. The discharge or deposit of designated waste as defined in Title 27 at this site is prohibited unless approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
- 3. The co-disposal of incompatible wastes as defined in Title 27 is prohibited.
- 4. The discharge of waste to land not owned or controlled by the discharger is prohibited.
- 5. The direct discharge of any waste to any surface waters or surface drainage courses is prohibited.
- 6. The discharge of liquid or semi-solid waste (i.e. waste containing less than 50 percent solids) to the Landfill is prohibited unless approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.

### C. Provisions

1. The discharger shall comply with "Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 01-139, and future revisions thereto, as specified by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
2. Prior to any change in ownership or management of this operation, the discharger shall transmit a copy of this Board Order to the succeeding owner/operator, and forward a copy of the transmittal letter to the Regional Board.
3. The discharger shall ensure that all site-operating personnel are familiar with the content of this Board Order, and shall maintain a copy of this Board Order at the site.
4. This Board Order does not authorize violation of any federal, state, or local laws or regulations.
5. The discharger shall allow the Regional Board, or an authorized representative, upon presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to:
  - a. Enter upon the premises regulated by this Board Order, or the place where records must be kept under the conditions of this Board Order;
  - b. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that shall be kept under the conditions of this Board Order;
  - c. Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this Board Order; and
  - d. Sample or monitor at reasonable times, for the purpose of assuring compliance with this Board Order or as otherwise authorized by the California Water Code, any substances or parameters at this location.
6. The discharge shall neither cause nor contribute to the contamination or pollution of ground water via the release of waste constituents in either liquid or gaseous phase.
7. This Board Order does not convey any property rights of any sort or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights, nor any infringement of federal, state, or local laws or regulations.
8. Unless otherwise approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer, all analyses shall be conducted at a laboratory certified for such analyses by the State Department of Health Services. All analyses shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of "Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for Analysis of Pollutants", promulgated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
9. All regulated disposal systems shall be readily accessible for sampling and inspection.
10. The discharger is the responsible party for the Waste Discharge Requirements and the Monitoring and Reporting Program for the facility. The discharger shall comply with all conditions of these Waste Discharge Requirements. Violations may result in enforcement actions, including Regional Board Orders or court orders, requiring corrective action or imposing civil monetary liability, or in modification or revocation of these Waste Discharge Requirements by the Regional Board.



11. The discharger shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical Monitoring Program Reports, and such reports shall be submitted in accordance with the specifications prepared by the Regional Board's Executive Officer. Such specifications are subject to periodic revisions as may be warranted.
12. All containment structures and erosion and drainage control systems shall be designed and constructed under direct supervision of a California Registered Civil Engineer or Certified Engineering Geologist, and shall be certified by the individual as meeting the prescriptive standards and performance goals of Title 27.
13. The discharger shall within 48 hours of a significant earthquake event, submit to the Regional Board a detailed post-earthquake report describing any physical damages to the containment features, ground water monitoring and/or leachate control facilities and a corrective action plan to be implemented at the landfill.
14. The discharger shall immediately notify the Regional Board of any flooding, slope failure or other change in site conditions which could impair the integrity of waste containment facilities or of precipitation and drainage control structures.
15. The discharger shall maintain legible records on the volume and type of each waste discharged at the site. These records shall be available for review by representatives of the Regional Board at any time during normal business hours. At the beginning of the post-closure maintenance period, copies of these records shall be sent to the Regional Board.
16. The discharger shall maintain visible monuments identifying the boundary limits of the entire Waste Management Facility.
17. The discharger shall submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the State Water Resources Control Board to be covered under the Statewide General NPDES Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities, Order No. 97-03-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS000001. The discharger shall comply with all the discharge prohibitions, receiving water limitations, and provisions of the General Permit.
18. The discharger shall submit a sampling and monitoring plan for storm water discharges to the Regional Board's Executive Officer for review and approval no later than 90 days after the adoption of this Board Order. The plan shall meet the minimum requirements of Section B, Monitoring Program and Reporting Requirements of the Statewide General NPDES Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities, Order No. 97-03 DWQ, NPDES No. CAS000001.
19. Within 180 days of the adoption of this Board Order, the discharger shall submit to the Regional Board in accordance with Section 20380(b) of Title 27, assurance of financial responsibility acceptable to the Regional Board's Executive Officer for initiating and completing corrective action for all known or reasonable foreseeable releases from the Landfill.
20. The Preliminary and Final Closure and Post Closure Maintenance Plan (PCPCMP) shall satisfy all requirements of Title 27 as specified by the Regional Board's Executive Officer. The post-closure period shall be at least thirty (30) years. However, the post-closure maintenance period shall extend as long as the waste poses a threat to water quality.

21. One (1) year prior to the anticipated closure of the facility or any unit (portion) thereof, the discharger shall submit to the Regional Board, for review and approval by the Regional Board's Executive Officer, a final closure and post-closure maintenance plan in accordance with Section 21769 of Title 27. The final closure and post closure maintenance plan shall include seismicity studies.
22. This Board Order is subject to Regional Board review and updating, as necessary, to comply with changing State or Federal laws, regulations, policies, or changes in the discharge characteristics.

I, Philip A. Gruenberg, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, on November 14, 2001.

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Executive Officer